

CALNENA



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May 28, 2010

The Honorable John D. Rockefeller
Chairman
Committee on Commerce, Science, and
and
Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Kerry
Chairman
Subcommittee on Communications
and Technology
Committee on Commerce, Science, and
and
Transportation
United State Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison
Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science
and
Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Ensign
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Communications
and Technology
Committee on Commerce, Science,
and
Transportation
United State Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Rockefeller, Chairman Kerry, Ranking Member Hutchison and
Ranking Member Ensign:

The California Chapter of the National Emergency Number Association (CALNENA) wishes to express our strong support of H. R. 5081. This bill provides for a public safety, interoperable, national communications network that meets the needs expressed in the National Broadband Plan ("Plan"). H.R. 5081 will ensure that vital radio frequency spectrum is available to public safety and their commercial partners to build regional specific but nationally interoperable systems, constructed to public safety standards of reliability and redundancy, to support critical public safety communications needs.

In a communication dated May 24, 2010, from our parent organization, the National Emergency Number Association (NENA) expressed their support and their concerns over funding issues not addressed in H.R. 5081. CALNENA supports these comments as well. Funding for the National Broadband Plan is vital to the development of the systems that will support the Plan. Funding and spectrum go hand in hand. however without spectrum funding is irrelevant.

Spectrum available for allocation today will not be available tomorrow or again in the foreseeable future without significant technological changes. The allocation of the 10 MHz of spectrum in the D Block to public safety will provide the critical capacity necessary to support public safety systems and applications in the future. This is a unique opportunity to ensure reliable communications for police and fire throughout the country during normal operations and catastrophic events. Therefore the passage of H. R. 5081 is vital to the progress of the critical public safety elements of the National Broadband Plan. CALNENA joins the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the National League of Cities, the National Governors Association, ICMA, the National Association of Counties, the National Conference of State Legislatures, the Council of State Governments, APCO, the Metropolitan Fire Chiefs Association, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Major Cities Chiefs Association, the National Sheriffs Association, the Major County Sheriffs Association, the International Association of Fire Chiefs and the National Emergency Management Association in supporting H.R. 5081.

The FCC is to be commended for numerous recommendations in the National Broadband Plan which will ensure the availability of a nationwide, interoperable, public safety communications network that will support Next Generation 9-1-1 systems. We support the continued engagement of the public safety community including the National Emergency Number Association in the constructive effort to enable the much needed transition into the broadband era for public safety and 9-1-1 systems.

Sincerely,



Mary Pat Marshall
President

cc: The Honorable Janet Napolitano, Secretary, Department of Homeland Security
The Honorable Julius Genachowski, Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
The Honorable Michael Copps, Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission
The Honorable Robert McDowell, Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission
The Honorable Mignon Clyburn, Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission
The Honorable Meredith Attwell Baker, Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission
The Honorable Lawrence Strickling, Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information,
Department of Commerce
Jamie Barnett, Chief, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, Federal Communications
Commission